SPAWN
McCONVILLE
BARBERI
RAMOS
image
343
DIGITAL EDITION

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RAMOS

WORLD RECORD-BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

The Dead Zones are open! Heaven's plan to deceive Spawn has worked and an all-out war with Hell has begun.

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
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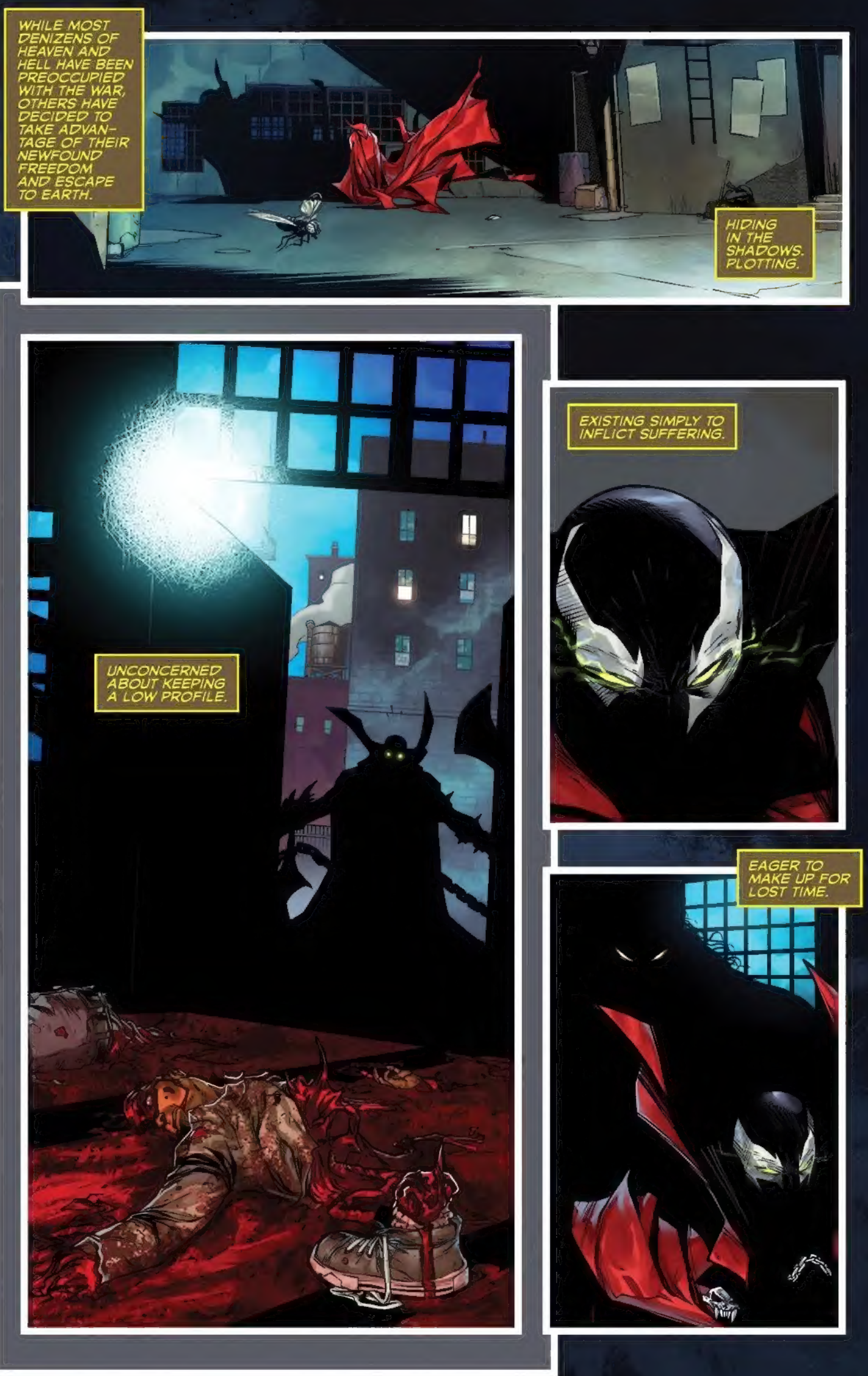
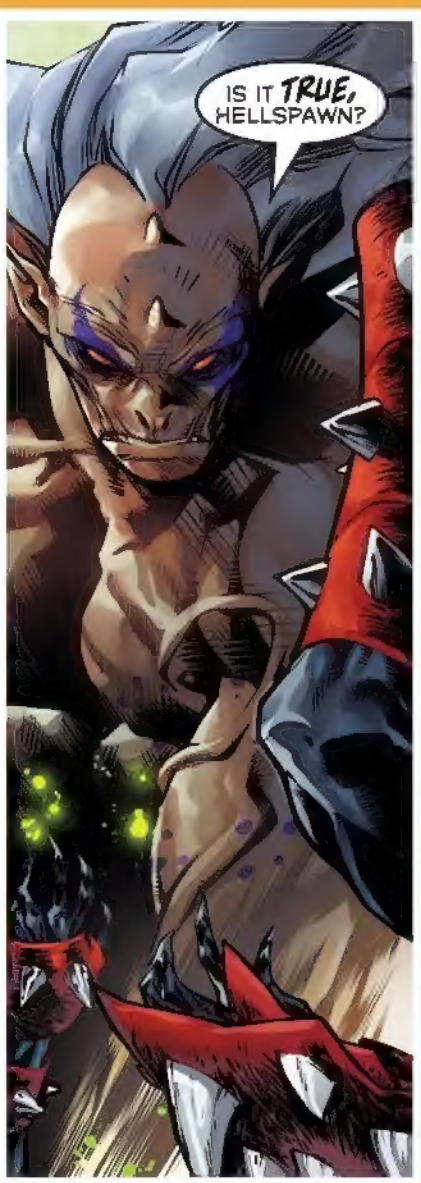
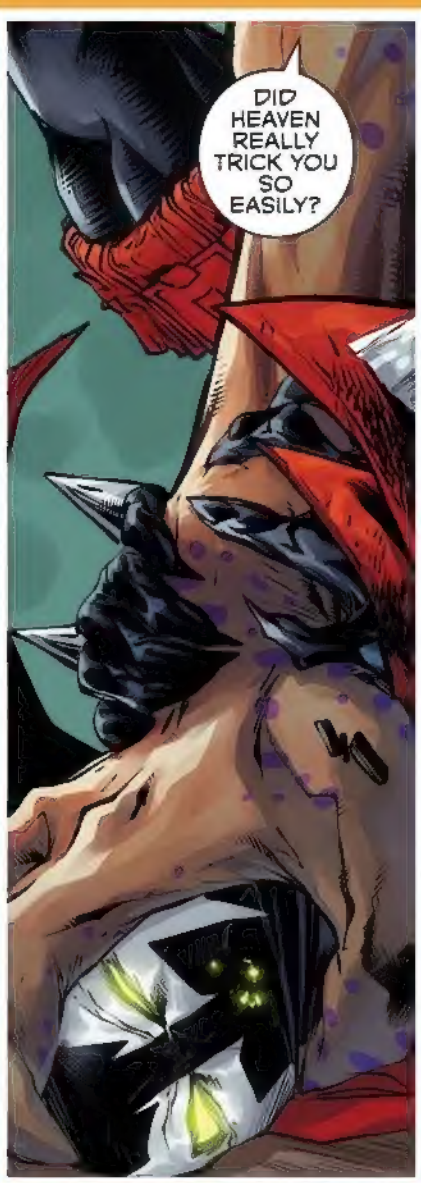
THREE DAYS. THAT'S HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE 'THE DEAD ZONES' WERE REOPENED.
THREE DAYS SINCE HEAVEN LAUNCHED ITS INVASION UPON HELL, TAKING THEIR ETERNAL WAR INTO NEW, UNPRECEDENTED TERRITORY.
THREE DAYS SINCE SPAWN'S GRAND PLAN... ENDED IN TOTAL FAILURE!


WHILE MOST DENIZENS OF HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE WAR, OTHERS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR NEWFOUND FREEDOM AND ESCAPE TO EARTH.
HIDING IN THE SHADOWS. PLOTTING.
UNCONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING A LOW PROFILE.
EXISTING SIMPLY TO INFLICT SUFFERING.
EAGER TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

AND WHERE IS SPAWN IN ALL THIS? FOR THE MOST PART HE'S GETTING EXHAUSTED.
SINCE HIS RETURN FROM HEAVEN, HE'S HAD NO TIME TO REGROUP OR REST.
SPENDING EVERY WAKING MOMENT STRUGGLING, IN VAIN, TO HOLD BACK AN AVALANCHE OF THREATS THAT'VE BEEN UNLEASHED.

THREATS HE UNLEASHED HIMSELF.


IS IT TRUE, HELLSPAWN?


DID HEAVEN REALLY TRICK YOU SO EASILY?

SHANK
SPAWN'S NOT ABOUT TO ANSWER TO ANYONE.
CRAK
CRAK
SZZT
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, AL?

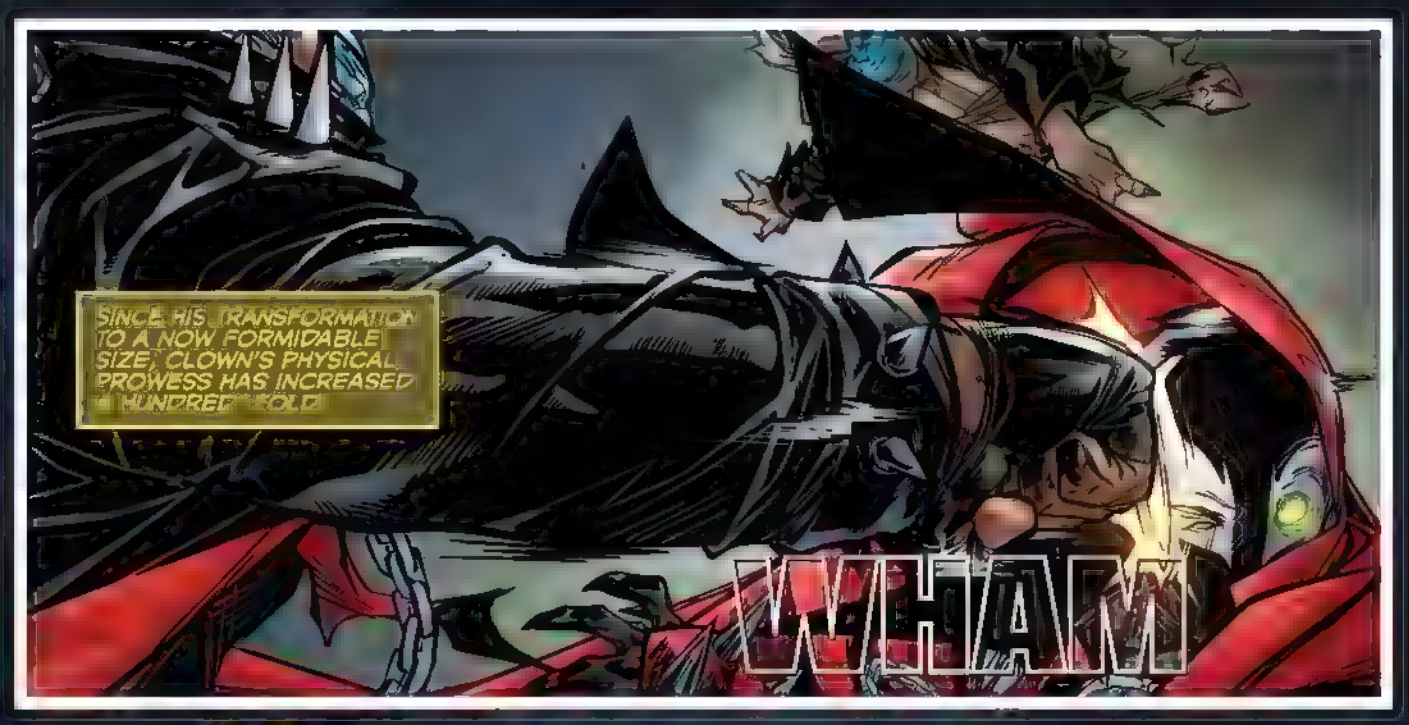
WHAT DO YOU WANT, NYX?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THE DEAD ZONES WERE SHUT. NOW THEY'VE BEEN BLOWN WIDE OPEN WHILE WAR IS BURNING IN HELL.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
CUT THE CRAP, AL. I KNOW YOU TRIGGERED ALL THIS! WHY, WHAT HAPPENED?
HEAVEN DESTABILIZED THE ZONES.
BUT YOU WERE THERE, TOO. YOU'RE NEVER SUPPOSED TO BE IN HEAVEN.
I WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE SINN'S POWERS.

UNBELIEVABLE.
AFTER ALL YOUR GRANDSTANDING AND LECTURING ABOUT HOW THE GREAT AL SIMMONS KNEW EVERYTHING.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
TO TAUNT ME?
I'M HERE TO FIND A WAY TO FIX YOUR MESS.
IT CAN'T BE REVERSED.
HE WONDERS IF IT'S TIME TO CALL A TRUCE WITH HER.
WITH THE DEAD ZONES OFF THE TABLE, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO BE ENEMIES ANYMORE.
WELL, WELL.

NOW, ISN'T THIS COZY?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT NYX'S DEATH WOULD BE THE REASON FOR YOU TWO TO CREATE SUCH A HEART-FELT RELATIONSHIP. I NEED TO MENTION THIS TO MY OWN FAMILY.*
*Which he will. See GUNSLINGER 21 thru 23 -- Thomas

SPAWN WAS TOLD CLOWN HAD SURVIVED
HE KILLED WANDA
HE'S ALSO THE REASON SPAWN INADVERTENTLY CREATED A TIME RIP CAUSING CHAOS THROUGHOUT THE TIME MATRIX

* Issues 300 and 301 – Thomas


SINCE HIS TRANSFORMATION TO A NOW FORMIDABLE SIZE, CLOWN'S PHYSICAL PROWESS HAS INCREASED A HUNDRED FOLD
WHAM

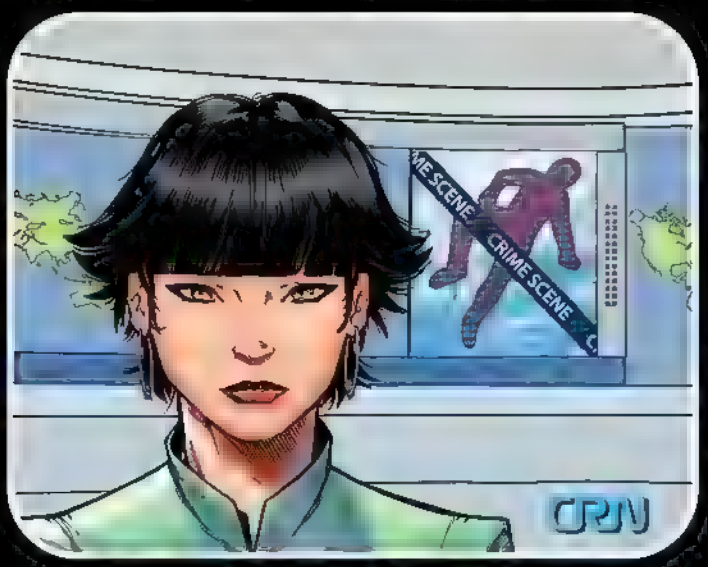
I'M HERE TO TALK, NYX. SIMMONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIT REACTIVE WHEN IT COMES TO ME.
BUT I THINK YOU BOTH WILL WANT TO HEAR THIS.

IT'S SINN.
HE'S BACK IN HELL RIGHT NOW. GATHERING HIMSELF AN ARMY, INTENT ON TAKING OVER THE THRONE.

WHO'S RESISTING HIM?
THE ZONES HAVE ONLY BEEN UNLOCKED A FEW DAYS. HE COULDN'T HAVE GATHERED THAT KIND OF SUPPORT SO QUICKLY WITHOUT HELP.
HE'S BEEN THERE A LOT LONGER THAN A FEW DAYS.
AND FOR **WHO'S** RESISTING HIM? HE'S NOT GIVING ANYONE A CHANCE TO DO THAT.
HE FOUND A FISSURE UNDERNEATH **OMEGA ISLAND**, A DIMENSIONAL CRACK. SINN WAS ABLE TO USE IT BY HARNESSING THE POWER HE STOLE FROM AL AND OTHER HELLSPAWNS.
THAT'S GIVEN SINN ***MONTHS*** TO GET HIS AHEAD OF HIS ENEMIES.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING US THIS?
BECAUSE HE'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING IF HE SUCCEEDS.

SO, AS MUCH AS YOU DISDAIN ME, AL, IF WE DON'T FIND A WAY TO ABORT SINN'S MISSION, IT WON'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HATE ME!
NONE OF US HAVE A CHOICE IN THIS MATTER.
THEN WHAT? WE KILL HIM TO CLEAR A PATH FOR YOU?
YES, I WANT THE THRONE BECAUSE HELL SHOULD BE RUN BY ONE OF ITS OWN, NOT YOU HUMANS.
WORRY ABOUT STOPPING ME AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH SINN.
SO WHY DON'T WE JUST DEAL WITH THE REALITY THAT'S STARING AT US NOW.
OH, BY THE WAY, NYX, YOU MIGHT WANT TO PASS THIS INFORMATION ONTO YOUR BOSSES IN GREENWORLD?
GREENWORLD?

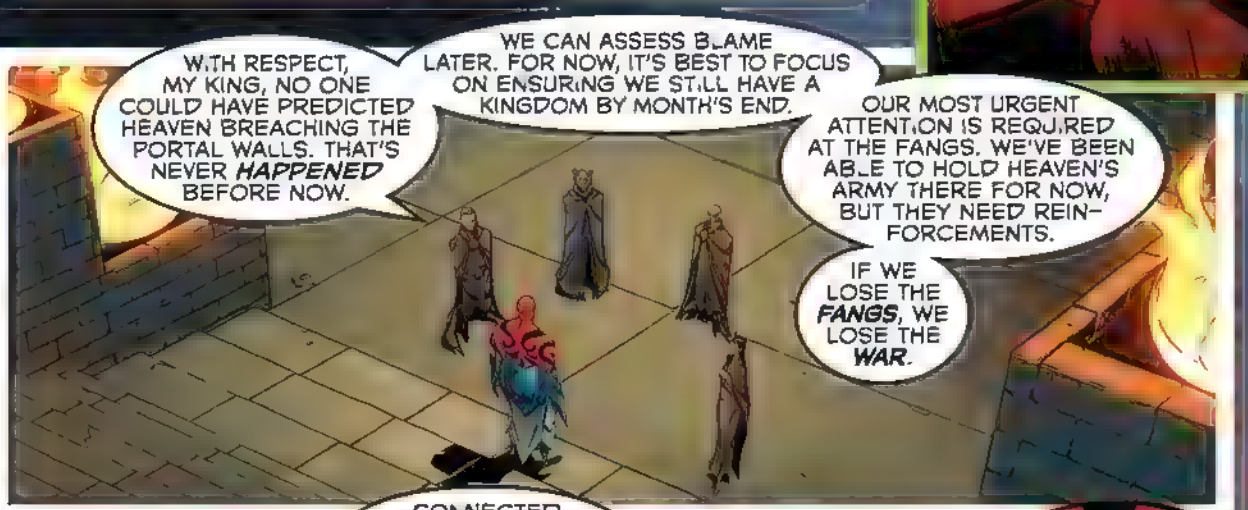
SHE WORKS FOR THEM.
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT. HER SIDE IS *INVOLVED* IN THIS GAME, TOO.
I'LL LEAVE THE TWO OF YOU TO DISCUSS THAT.
BUT DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON IT. SINN'S HOPING THAT WE'LL FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES. THEN HE'D ONLY HAVE TO *PICK OFF* ONE OR TWO OF US AFTER HE CONQUERS THE THRONE.
AL...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, NYX. I'M DONE WITH YOU.


CRIME SCENE
CRIME SCENE
CRIME SCENE

WAR RAGES ON NEAR THE INFERNAL KEEP IN HELL
"IT'S NO EXAGGERATION. THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN AMONG THE HARDEST WE'VE EVER FACED.
"THOUGH WE FACE OVERWHELMING ODDS, THERE ARE SOME POSITIVES. .
"WE'VE FOUND WAYS TO REGROUP OUR FORCES. THEY'VE MADE STEADY PROGRESS DRIVING OUR ENEMIES BACK ACROSS THE KINGDOM.
"AND WE'VE ***RETAKEN*** THE REGIONS OF AJICON AND MHORINDA, THUS CREATING A STRONG PERIMETER AROUND THE STYGIAN MARSHES.
"LASTLY, THERE'RE ENCOURAG.NG SIGNS NEAR THE ***STRAITS OF DESOLATION.*** REPORTS INDICATE WE MAY BE ABLE TO DRIVE HEAVEN'S FORCES OUT OF THERE, GIVEN TIME..."

...HOWEVER, WHILE THESE ARE ALL ENCOURAGING SIGNS, THEY'RE NOT ENOUGH TO COMPENSATE FOR THE FACT THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, WE'VE LOST ALMOST A QUARTER OF OUR TERRITORY TO HEAVEN--OR SINN'S ARMIES.

AND WHY WAS YOUR COMMISSION NOT PREPARED FOR THIS?


WITH RESPECT, MY KING, NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED HEAVEN BREACHING THE PORTAL WALLS. THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE NOW.
WE CAN ASSESS BLAME LATER. FOR NOW, IT'S BEST TO FOCUS ON ENSURING WE STILL HAVE A KINGDOM BY MONTH'S END.
OUR MOST URGENT ATTENTION IS REQUIRED AT THE FANGS. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD HEAVEN'S ARMY THERE FOR NOW, BUT THEY NEED REINFORCEMENTS.
IF WE LOSE THE FANGS, WE LOSE THE WAR.

CONNECTED TO THAT... GIVEN THE SCALE OF HEAVEN'S THREAT THERE--
WE MAY NEED TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATING A TRUCE WITH SINN'S FORCES.

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

GASP
YOU WANT ME TO GO BEGGING TO MY SON'S MURDERER!?! WHO'S TRYING TO STEAL MY THRONE?!
WE'RE NOT EXCUSING SINN'S ACTIONS, MY LIEGE, BUT THE FACT REMAINS, THAT RIGHT NOW, HELL'S FORCES ARE SPLINTERED.
IF WE DON'T ACT SOON, HEAVEN WILL OVERWHELM US.
THEY WON'T. I'LL DRIVE THEM OUT MYSELF, THEN DEAL WITH SINN LATER.
SIR, MAYBE...
SILENCE! BEGIN PREPARATIONS NOW!

IT'S BEEN GRANTED AS TRUTH, THAT THE THRONE OF HELL IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL OBJECTS IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE
BUT MOST ALL FAIL TO CAPTURE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE POWER THAT THRONE IMBUES UPON ITS OCCUPANT
WITH THE THRONE'S ENHANCEMENTS, THE KING OF HELL COULD SLAY CELESTIAL BEINGS
HE COULD SPLIT PLANETS IN HALF
IF ALL THAT'S TRUE, WHY HASN'T CATACLYSM TAKEN IT HIMSELF?
AND, IF HE SO CHOSES, HE COULD ELIMINATE HEAVEN'S INVASION IN A MATTER OF HOURS.

WHY DO YOU THINK, CADICLUS?
I DON'T KNOW.
THINK HARD. WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD THERE BE FOR CATACLYSM NOT TO USE THAT POWER, GIVEN THE CURRENT CRISIS?
BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANCE COURSING THROUGH HIS VEINS.
IN MANY WAYS, OBSIDIA IS A MORE POWERFUL AND POTENT ENERGY SOURCE THAN NECROPLASM, BUT IT HAS ONE CRITICAL FLAW.
IT ISN'T NATIVE TO HELL AND THEREFORE, PREVENTS WHOEVER USES IT FROM ACCESSING THE THRONE'S POWER.
BECAUSE HE CAN'T?
EXACTLY.

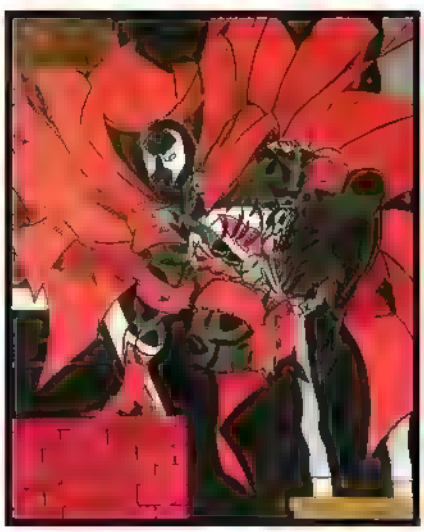
CATACLYSM'S CREATOR LIKELY CHOSE IT FOR THAT *EXACT* REASON, HOPING IT WOULD BE A MEANS OF KEEPING CATACLYSM IN CHECK, PREVENTING HIM FROM TRY.NG TO TAKE THE THRONE HIMSELF.
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WOULD DO HIM.
CATACLYSM'S BEEN HIDING THAT FROM HIS SUBJECTS?
YES. THEY MIGHT NOT BE SO LOYAL IF THEY KNEW OTHERWISE. IGNORANCE IS A MIGHTY TOOL USED WISELY.
REMEMBER TOO, HELL HAS BEEN CLOSED OFF FOR THE ENTIRETY OF CATACLYSM'S REIGN, GIVEN HIS PRESENCE, HE'S LIKELY NEVER HAD NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THE THRONE'S POWER TO ANYONE.
"HE MAY CALL HIMSELF THE **KING OF HELL**, BUT HE'S ONLY EVER BEEN A PRETENDER...
"...AND SOON ALL OF HELL WILL KNOW THE TRUTH."

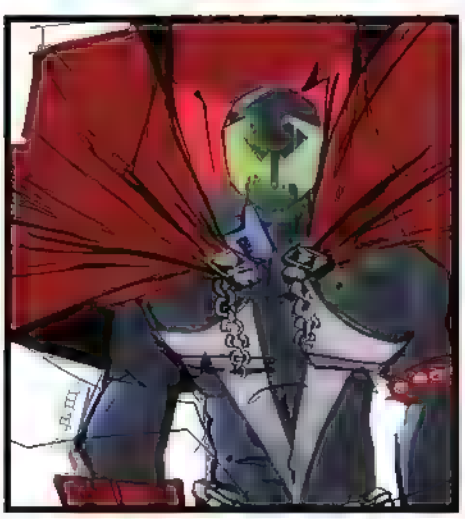
GREENWORLD
FINALLY.
WONDERED WHEN YOU WERE COMING BACK.
JIM, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY'S EVERYONE HERE?
WE JUST GOT SOME NEWS HANDED DOWN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I NEED TO SPEAK WITH THE PARLIAMENT, IMMEDIATELY.
THE SITUATION IN HELL IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT. SINN'S BUILT...
THEY ALREADY KNOW.
THEY'VE BEEN IN DELIBERATIONS THE LAST FEW HOURS, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO, AND THEY'VE JUST ANNOUNCED THEIR DECISION.
BUT...
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE IT.

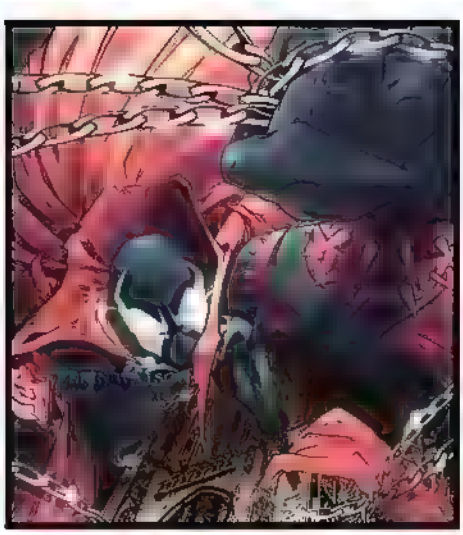
1:9:1:3

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS: FAN ART







Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawninggground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES:

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER SPAWN

FEATURING COVER ARTIST J.H. WILLIAMS III IN JULY 2023!

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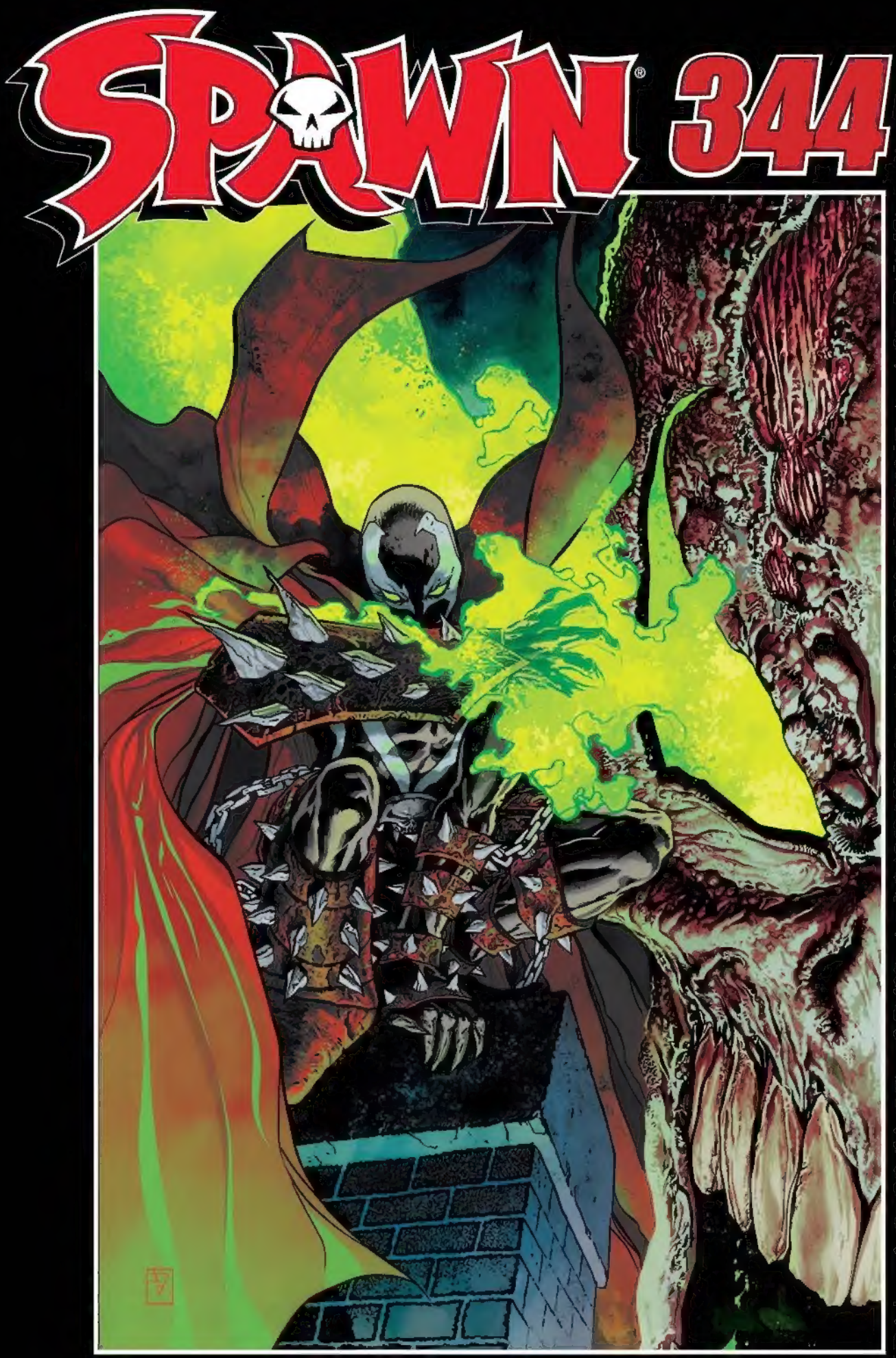

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